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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

CONFIDENTIAL

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DATE 3/10/81

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

DECLASSIFIED BY: [X]
RELEASE DATE: September 7, 1956
PA or FOI REQUESTS

SUBJECT: Recruiting of German Scientists: MWDP

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. C. C. Furnas, Assistant Secretary of Defense, R & D
Ambassador James B. Conant
William K. Miller, GEA

COPIES TO:

GER - Mr. Reinstein
GEA - Mr. Margolies
GEA - Mr. Miller
GPA - Mr. Greel
U/SA - Mr. Rudolph
MC - Mr. Margrave

U/MSA - SEP 14 1956
EUR
RA
GER Files -
American Embassy, Bonn (3)

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Recruiting of German Scientists

Dr. Furnas indicated that he was sympathetic to Ambassador Conant's recommendation that Defense should discontinue organized programs for the recruiting of German scientists. He said, however, that there was opposition in the military services to termination of the programs and he did not know what the ultimate outcome would be.

Ambassador Conant said that there were two reasons for his letter. First, the recruiting of scientists in Germany was a psychological barrier to a successful mutual weapons program. Second, it was a slight hindrance to our good relations with the Federal Republic. He said that he had not written the letter as a result of any embarrassing incident with the Germans, but primarily because of pressure from Defense people who are interested in the Mutual Weapons Development Program. The ill effects on our good relations probably could be brushed aside if that were the only problem. However, we will not get a useful MWDP program in Germany unless we do stop recruiting German scientists. He thought that it was up to the military departments to decide among themselves what they thought was important.

Dr. Furnas requested that the State Department send the letter from Dr. Conant to Defense officially so that he could pursue the matter with a view to a high-level decision. Mr. Miller undertook to see that this was done.

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Mutual

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Mutual Weapons Development Program

Dr. Furnas said he also wished to discuss the current situation with regard to the MWD. He said he understood that it was Mr. Hollister's interpretation of the Mutual Security legislation that there would be no further grant aid to Germany. Ambassador Conant and Mr. Miller said that they did not know of anything in the legislation or in the legislative history to this effect, but that they believed it was a question of policy. Dr. Conant said that he thought the Germans could pay for equipment, but the MWD is a different thing because it is mutual. He said that he had just discussed the matter with Mr. Gray and that Mr. Gray was going to talk to Mr. Hollister with a view to persuading him to approve the proposed grant MWD. Ambassador Conant said he concurred that it was a good program. There was also another obstacle - security. German security is still inadequate, and he did not know what could be done about it. However, he would do what he could to see that it was improved.

W. Miller
EUR:GFR:GEA:WMiller:gw. 9/10/56.

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File: *Science* *6097* *220*
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SEP 25 1956

TO: S - The Secretary
THROUGH: S/S *X G. my*
FROM: EUR - C. Burke Elbrick *UES*
SUBJECT: Recruiting of Scientists in Germany

Ambassador Conant wrote to you on July 13, 1956 (Tab A) recommending the discontinuation of organized programs for the recruiting of scientists in Germany by the United States military services. He indicated that we cannot hope that Germany will truly cooperate with us in developing a joint weapons research program unless the recruiting programs are terminated. He has also expressed the view that continuation of the programs would have an adverse effect on our good relations with the Federal Republic.

At the time Ambassador Conant's letter was received we sent copies to Defense with a view to determining what might be done in line with his recommendation. The matter was subsequently discussed with Defense by my staff (Tab B) and by Ambassador Conant (Tab C). In Dr. Conant's conversation with Dr. Furnas, the latter indicated sympathy with the recommendation for discontinuation of the organized recruiting programs, but said that there was opposition in the military services. Dr. Furnas requested that Dr. Conant's letter be sent to the Secretary of Defense officially in order that he might seek a decision in the matter.

Ambassador Conant's recommendation would not mean an absolute cessation of the movement of German scientists to the United States. It would, however, mean termination of organized recruiting by the United States Government.

Recommendation:

I recommend that you sign the attached letter to the Secretary of Defense (Tab D), transmitting and supporting Ambassador Conant's recommendation that the programs for recruiting of German scientists be terminated.

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Concurrences:

FW 9622. 8014/10-2556

REF ID: A6633

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Concurrences:

GER - Mr. Reinstein *R*

RA - *RA* Unger

U/SA - Mr. Rudolph *Wm R*

U/MSA *Wm R* Barnes

Attachments:

Tab A - Letter from Ambassador Conant.

Tab B - Memorandum of Conversation,
August 31, 1956.

Tab C - Memorandum of Conversation,
September 7, 1956.

Tab D - Letter to Defense.

OK
EUR:GER:CEA:WIG:Miller:gw. 9/10/56.

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REF ID: A6633